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AN
E S S A Y
ON THE
C U R E
OF THE
Venereal Gonorrhœa,
IN A
NEW METHOD.
WITH SOME
O B S E R V A T I O N S
O N
G L E E T S.

By W. ELLIS, APOTHECARY.

The SECOND EDITION, with Additions.

L O N D O N :

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P R E F A C E.

IT having long appeared to me, from observation and experience, that the common method of practice, amongst the faculty, in venereal Gonorrhœas, is neither the most rational in theory, nor expeditious in cure, I have at length ventured to submit these few pages to the candid consideration of the public; though I am sensible of the danger that must attend an entire deviation from the general received opinion of the faculty: but what improvements can be made in any art or science, if we make it an invariable rule to yield an implicit submission to the authority or practice of our predecessors? This consideration will, I hope, apologize for the temerity of my attempt; and I
flatter

P R E F A C E.

flatter myself that my observations may have a tendency to throw some new light upon the disease of which they treat, and thereby contribute to extend and improve the knowledge, both of the cure and theory, as I have advanced nothing but what is founded on facts, and on my own experience.

Fenchurch-Street,

May 12, 1771.



O F

G O N O R R H O E A S.



T is the general practice of writers to give some account of the origin of any disease upon which they treat; but at what period of time Gonorrhœas, which are commonly called Claps, (and which, through my following treatise, will always be considered so,) first made their appearance, has been so much discussed, by so many eminent and ingenious writers, that it would be presumption in me to offer my opinion on a subject so difficult to ascertain. But those, who would more willingly be satisfied on that head, I would refer to Boerhaave, Astruc, or Turner.

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That

That it is a disease which has existed for many years, and its treatment tedious, is sufficiently known. It appears very singular, that a disease, which is so very common, and daily falling under the care of many ingenious practitioners, both in physic and surgery, has not received greater improvements in the method of cure: and nothing could have prevented it but that blind submission which we so readily pay to eminent practical writers, without suffering one ray of our own understanding to supersede the authority of their precepts, although experience convinces us of the absurdity of their rules.

Even a farther reason might be urged: surgeons, whose dependence is upon their success in practice, will more readily follow tedious and certain rules, which they have seen to answer, than introduce any innovations, which might prove precarious, although more probably successful.

Gonorrhœas

Gonorrhœas have been considered, by some of the most eminent in the faculty, to be very difficult of cure; whilst others have viewed them in a quite contrary light; and both may justly be true, according to the mode they proceed in at first. It is no uncommon thing to find the most skilful surgeons defeated by a common Gonorrhœa, after trying every method in their power for many months, and at last unwillingly obliged to behold a weeping from the penis, without being able to give any assistance, nothing remaining but to commit the diseased to time and patience; and frequently, from the duration, strictures and caruncles will form in the urinary passage, and then particular care and art are required in the cure,

But, on the contrary, if the Gonorrhœa be treated in the simple method I would recommend, no difficulty will be found, no great art or profound genius required;


common sense will quickly evince they are indeed really *simple*. And, notwithstanding the very great variety of pretended specifics and arcana, from the first of the pamphleteering empirics in Westminster, down to the lowest hand-bill quacks in Wapping, it does not appear they have any superiority over the common practice, except their arcana in deluding the ignorant; yet I make no doubt but experience and time will be able to furnish us with a specific, and, at the same time, a spirit to make it public, which will be as effectual and as quick a cure, as sulphur is for the itch.

An opinion, which I have adopted for some years, induced me to practise in the following mode; and daily experience, with success, has convinced me of the utility and truth of my hypothesis. Mr. Hales, in his letter to Cæsar Hawkins, seems to have imbibed the same notion; and his remarks and observations have not a little served to corroborate that opinion, that the

Virus

Virus of the Pox, and that of the Gonorrhœa, are of a very different nature; as it is well known that no Pox, in the slightest degree, was ever cured without Mercury: yet I can produce great numbers who have had the most virulent Gonorrhœas cured without one grain, either internally or externally; and, to ascertain the truth of what is advanced, we must judge from the effects we find by experience, and draw our conclusion from thence, when we cannot so clearly illustrate it by ocular demonstration.

It seems most probable, that there is something in the venereal particles of matter, in a Gonorrhœa, which is very different in its nature, quality, and figure, from that of the Pox, although both be received from coition. It is not either so easily absorbed by the lacteals, or, if any ever has been absorbed at any time, it hath proved of no kind of consequence. Many surmises have been formed of this disease,
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in regard to its nature; and none more plausible than a supposition of its being animalculæ. The locality of the disease, with the inflammation, the peculiar discharge without ulceration, and the advantages of mineral injections, corroborated this conjecture; which induced me to make some microscopic experiments. After many repeated trials, I was not able to discover any minute animated beings.

If we give a faithful attention and observation to the contraction of the disease, and the different effects and appearances between the gonorrhœal and the pocky matter, we shall not hesitate to pronounce that they are not of the same species. The singular disposition of the one, of inflaming the whole internal part of the urethra, in a short time, without forming any chancres, and causing a very great discharge of a purulent kind of matter, with scalding and chordee; whilst the pocky matter, from its ponderosity, or, perhaps, spiculosity, seems

seems only to affect the part where it drops, and, if it is not all immediately absorbed, forms itself into a chancre upon the glans penis, præputium, &c. and sometimes on the internal part of the urethra, when it does enter, which is very rare. Now, if the gonorrhœal matter were pocky, why have we not the urethra full of chancres, as the case always proves from any redundancy of matter from chancres on the glans penis or præputium? We cannot say the membrane, that covers the glans penis, is of a more delicate texture than that which lines the internal part of the urethra, and, consequently, more easily corroded; because it is well known to every one to be *vice versa*.

We frequently meet with men, who, after copulation with women infected with a virulent Gonorrhœa, and having escaped receiving any virus into the urethra, have had an inflammation and an excoriation with a Phymosis, from some of the gonorrhœal

gonorrhœal matter being confined between the præpuce and glans; which has been readily cured by cleansing the parts with a styptic wash, and a little soft lint to keep the parts asunder.

A young gentleman, of one of the inns of court, came to me with a severe scalding and running: I gave him a phial of drops, to take 80 thrice a day, with my usual directions: he being that afternoon going into the country, for a few days, accidentally, on his journey, he met with a surgeon of his acquaintance, to whom he communicated his case, and shewed the medicine: and, upon examination, the precipitate surgeon did not hesitate to pronounce that he was poxed, if he took the medicine, and that I was very ignorant; at the same time filling his head with the theory of locking up, and translating, of matter, &c. so that he appeared as knowing even as the surgeon himself: the result of which was, he omitted the medicine until
his

his return to town, which was two days after. When he sent for me, I found him with a most astonishing discharge, the scalding almost intolerable, and, added to that, a phymosis, with ulcerations between the glans and præpuce. I cleaned the parts by injecting, between the præpuce and glans, a solution of sacch. satur. in water, introducing as much lint as I could, to absorb the matter, and keep the parts asunder, with a bread poultice over the whole. By much persuasion, I got him to take 100 of the drops in a glass of water, and to repeat them five hours after, drinking freely of weak tea. At the sixth hour, his scalding was much abated, and very tolerable, so that he could make water without any fear, and scarce any pain; the next morning he was quite free; and in seven days he had no appearance of any disease. He continued the drops and vitr. inject. eight days longer, from which time, which is three years ago, he has had no complaint of the kind: the ulcerations all healed in

five days, and, notwithstanding the large surface of the glans and præpuce that was denudated, and exposed to the absorption of the venereal matter, and not one single grain of mercury used, a pocky symptom hath never since appeared, which is a clear demonstration that poxes and claps have properties very different. I have had many instances of the same kind.

Would such applications have cured or prevented the pocky matter from forming chancres? I answer in the negative: and nothing but mercurials could have had any effect. I am well aware of excoriations happening from the sebaceous matter being confined between the glans and præpuce, which is cured by the same mode.

In order to shew what may, with some propriety, be called a pocky Gonorrhœa, and how very distinguishable it is from the common virulent Gonorrhœa, I will give a case.

A young gentleman came to me with a little discharge, from the urethra, of a thin and ichory look, somewhat fetid: he had perceived it near a fortnight; but not going off, he was willing to have some remedy applied. From the first, he expressed that he had a heavy dead pain, as he called it, a little within the urethra, without being accompanied with scaldings, chordee, or scarce any discharge. When I examined him, his running was trifling; but I could perceive, a little within the urethra, a chancre, and the part round it was hard on being felt; which is what we generally find with chancres on the glans or præputium. I introduced a very short bougie; and, over the part where the chancre was, it was covered with a little calx of mercury from calomel, being deprived of its acid by an alkali, washed and well levigated; which is a dressing I generally use with chancres. I gave him a weak solu-

tion of sublimate mercury, with the farfa decoction, and he soon got well.

A little observation soon shews us the difference between the two diseases; the pocky Gonorrhœa not discharging that large quantity of purulent matter, nor inflaming the urethra so much; but forms itself into a chancre, be it either internally or externally, if it be not immediately either absorbed or washed off. The discharge is very trifling in quantity, of a thin ichory nature, somewhat fetid, attended with a hardness, always to be distinguished by feeling round the chancre, and not accompanied with that scalding pain, or sharp chordee, which we find in a common virulent Gonorrhœa; nor is it relieved by any thing but mercury. This chancrous Gonorrhœa, if it may be so called, happens very seldom; and, when it does happen, simply, or compounded with a common Gonorrhœa, it is of so self-evident a nature, by not giving way to any thing but mercury, that unfair conclusions

clusions are frequently drawn ; and every venereal Gonorrhœa is supposed to be of a pocky nature, from the want of accurate observations. Another cogent reason, of a much more common kind, serves to strengthen these erroneous opinions ; as for example : a gentleman shall have a virulent Gonorrhœa, he shall copulate with a woman who has had the pox, with chancrous discharges from the vagina ; after their embraces, each shall be infected with each other's disease, which consequently must be compound. The woman shall, after having both the infections, receive the embraces of a healthful man ; a few days after, he discovers a Gonorrhœa, for which he has proper medicines ; the Gonorrhœa, at the end of a fortnight, abates, (or does not, being immaterial,) a bubo appearing in the groin, or some other pocky symptoms. As the bubo appears with the Gonorrhœa, it is concluded, that that absorption, to the inguinal glands, could not have been produced but by the Gonorrhœa ;

when,

when, in fact, the pocky Virus was received at the time of coition, and had been gradually absorbing to the inguen, although no chancre had appeared to give proof of the nature of its virulency. For we frequently find pocky symptoms, and eruptions, without being able to discover the identical part of their absorption: therefore, we are not to take every pocky appearance, accompanying a Gonorrhœa, for a degeneracy, but a compound, of the disease, and treat them as *suorum generum*. These compound infections have led many people into mistakes, and made them suppose that a translation, or a degeneracy, of the one into the other, was always the consequence. From the result of this primary occult compound disease, and supported by the most eminent authors, practitioners could never be brought to have any idea of a common virulent Gonorrhœa, without its being of a true pocky nature: these very strong arguments authorised them to play all the unnecessary powers of mercury,

and

and shatter their patients constitutions, to preserve them from a fancied evil infection, which had not shewn itself in any one shape ; and, in order to make the noble science of physic more perplexing to the young students and themselves, some writers have divided and subdivided the disease into as many stages as the patient finds twinges from a chordee.

I think, upon the whole, we may fairly conclude, that there is one certain truth ; which is, that, if the Virus of a Gonorrhœa be exposed to any part denudated of its skin, it will not form any chancre, but will heal with any little styptic wash, and dry lint, as I observed before ; whilst common practice hath as clearly convinced us that the minutest excoriation, touched with the pocky Virus, will immediately form a chancre, which will not yield to any thing but mercury ; from whence it appears to be a demonstrable truth, that they are very distinct in their nature, and consequently

consequently require as different treatment in their cure; the pocky matter being obviously more susceptible of absorption, and more pernicious; for we frequently find it taken up by the absorbents, and carried through all the glands, without any obstruction, and infect the whole habit at once. Notwithstanding what has been advanced by many respectable practitioners, of their being able, by the exhibition of particular medicines, and the use of peculiar injections, to change the common simple Gonorrhœa into a pox, or the pox into a clap, I would, with all due deference to their authority, beg leave to deviate from their sentiments; and to assert, with a confidence grounded on experience, the total impossibility of it, as they will remain *sui generis* unto the last.

As I have said so much upon chancres, I cannot dismiss the subject without making some additional observations.

A

A chancre is a little ulcer, mostly brought on by impure coition; nay, even the smallest particle of pocky matter touching the most minute denudation or fissure of the skin, will, by that means, form itself into this kind of corroding ulcer, called a chancre: it keeps gradually enlarging, and is accompanied with some little hardness round it; and, in time, if nothing were done to check the disease, it would deprive the patient of his genitals: hence the French have very properly denominated it a chancre.

In weakly habits, where the patient is afflicted with this disease, the odds are generally two to one against being cured, without a bubo previously appearing; and every thing that contributes to make the body in a more absorbent and weakly state, produces the very effect which they are solicitous to avoid: therefore, in order to succeed with safety and quickness, the ha-

D

bit

bit should be kept, or brought, as near as it can be, under a mercurial course, to its natural and healthful state. The body should be gradually filled with mercury, until the mineral taste is somewhat in the mouth, or the gums are a little sore. The chancre will more readily heal by being touched with a little lunar caustic at the first; but it should always be used after ten or twelve days, if it does not appear in a healing state, as not any thing accelerates the cure so rapidly. The chancre should be filled with a little calomel, or calx of calomel deprived of its acid, as I observed before; covering it with a little dry lint, or a pledgit, spread with equal parts of calomel, or calx of calomel and basilicon. A little mercurial ointment should be rubbed on the body of the penis, night and morning, that, provided there be an absorption of the virus from the chancre, the mercury might enter the same absorbent vessels, and render the virus inert, from its well-known antidotal qualities.

If

If the chancre does not heal, but still spreads, and corrodes deep, or the edges look thick, use the caustic; increase the mercury until the gums are sore, and a little spitting ensues; keep the patient a few days in this state, and, if the chancre appears not to heal, fumigate the parts with cinnabar of antimony twice a day, and keep the gums sore until it heals. If a high scurvy be an attendant of the disease, I need not mention the virtues of bark and acids, they being so universally known,

A chordee is a general attendant on a Gonorrhœa where there is much inflammation. It is a spasmodic incurvation of the penis, occasioned by a stretching of the inflamed membrane by involuntary and partial erections, which are very frequent and painful, from the titillation or irritation. The two bodies of the *crura cavernosa* become distended with blood, and consequently stretch out the inflamed urethra,

thra, which gives that intense pain called a chordee.

In the erection, the canal of the urethra becomes open, and gives the matter an easy passage to flow down upon the ducts of the prostate glands; which, being a continuation of the prostatæ, swell and inflame, and cause a pain in perinæo, and sometimes a fistula; and, from that sympathetic irritation of the affected parts, swelled testicles very often are the consequence.

That method which I have pursued for some years, and by which I have had the happiness of curing great numbers, in a much less time than any practitioner I have either read or conversed with, without ever poisoning a patient, proves to me how much superior practice is to theory, or an ill-founded prejudice, although supported by the most eminent writers. I do not pretend to any arcana, but offer my
method

method to the impartial public, by which an experiment may be made, whether it is not the most ready, as well as safe, cure, yet known.

The CURE,

In strong plethoric habits with costiveness, I bleed, and give a purge of Rochelle salt and manna; as the drops would rather be apt to give such persons violent headaches; but, by a little evacuation, this is prevented. I then begin immediately with the drops; observing to avoid all very laborious exercises, and in particular riding on horseback, which is very pernicious; and also all sorts of spirituous liquors, or vinegar, dried or salt provisions, and all aromatic spices which are used in seasoning; and garlic, onions, mustard, and volatile alkalies, have such a peculiar effect in keeping and bringing on a scalding, that a free use of them will make the cure very long and tedious. The testicles are to be
suspended

suspended by a bag-truss ; the end of the penis to be kept very clean, or matter will insinuate itself between the glans and præpuce, which, with the sebaceous excretion, grow acrimonious, and bring on a phymosis, at times.

A full and free use of plain food is always necessary, in order to keep up and support the strength ; nor will a glass of wine do any harm ; it being of trifling consequence whether the patient has a very little running and scalding, or the Gonorrhœa affects only a small way down the urethra, or it hath even reached the ducts of the prostate glands, with scalding, chordee, and all the virulent symptoms of the disease. But to proceed ; having observed my foregoing rule with regard to the costiveness, I then begin with the following medicine :

℞. Balf. copaiv. ʒ ii.

Spir. lav. composit. ʒ iii. m. cap,
gutt. 80 ad 120, ter de die, in cyath. aq.
pur. semper post pastum. They assimilate
with

with the food, and pass off without rising upon the stomach or clinging to its coats, which they are apt to do when empty. Let the patient drink very freely of tea, capillaire, and water, or any small liquors equally innocent. After two or three doses of the drops are taken, a very considerable alteration will be found. Upon examination of the patient, you will find the inflammation lessened; the scalding almost, if not entirely, gone; the running naturally decreasing as the inflammation abates; and in four, five, or six, days, according to the degree of the disease at the first. Scarce any running will be perceptible, and no scalding: at this period I still persist in the drops, with the use of the following injection.

R. Vitriol. alb. ʒ i.

Extr. saturn. ʒ i.

Aq. puræ ʒ iii. m. fiat injectio, bis vel ter de die usurpanda. Probably in using it may give a little smarting, but that will soon go off. In a day or two more,
the

the patient generally thinks himself well, and is very apt to quit the medicine and injection, which should be continued eight or nine days after all appearance, or else a running will return ; which will as readily be subdued by the foregoing medicine, and be cured by a little perseverance. Some gentlemen of the faculty, whom I have informed of my method of cure, which they have adopted, have complained to me that, in some cases, it would return three or four times : this never happens if the medicine be properly persevered in at first ; in these cases the patient should continue the drops for a week, or till it is completely under ; then use the foregoing injection alone, for a fortnight, after which it will scarcely ever return.

The following injections will answer the place of the vitriolic :

R. Ol. oliv. opt. ʒ ii.

Ærug. æris ʒ ß m. f. inject. ter de die usurpanda.

R.

R. *Ærug. æris* ʒ ii. solut. in spir. falis ammon. cum calce ʒ iv. m. f. solut.

R. Solut. præscript. gutt. xii.

Aq. pur. ʒ ii. m. f. inject. ter de die usurpanda.

These injections, in very slight cases, will sometimes cure in the beginning, without any internal medicine; but this is very uncertain.

Injections, of late, have become much the subject of dispute, as they were formerly; so that it is not unfrequent to see pamphlets, upon that subject, without a single useful practical proof to strengthen their fancied injury from the use of injections, excepting now and then a curious testimony of a friend, or a friend's friend; for it is not customary now to write from one's own observations, but to rely upon others; so that we have a brace of buboes

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merely

merely from injections; claps, with runnings, scaldings, and chordees, brought on by the use of cayenne pepper: and, notwithstanding these weighty proofs of those authors friends, I practise injections, and eat cayenne, as if I had never heard one word of the pernicious consequences attending their use. If that degree of evil, our modern authors suppose, was commonly the attendant in the free use of injections, I should certainly have found it out before this time; but daily experience convinces me to the contrary, and I am too modest to deny facts. The advocates and opponents, that there are for the use and disuse of injections, are many; the former, from practice, acquire so strong a conviction that they cannot relapse, but become converts to the practice, from the safety and great advantages they daily perceive from the use of it; nor can the opponents, with their heads full of theory, and quotations from Galen, to this present period, nay, even the fertile mind, charged with every hypothesis

hypothesis it can surmise, ever supersede practical facts, when trials are made. And I am inclined to believe, that those very rejectors and condemners of injections, have never made the experiment, or the advantages accruing would have given their pens an opportunity of effacing every supposed injury fancy had formed. Many have thought that injections impede the natural discharge of matter, and prevent its course, *viz.* by absorption; and it has been supposed to pass through unknown vessels to the testes, and there produce the hernia humoralis; which hernia, in fact, arises from nothing more than an affinity of the parts, from irritation and inflammation.

It is well known to every practical surgeon, that the discharge cannot be stopt immediately, at pleasure, by any injection that will not do violence to the parts, but will return in less than thirty or forty hours; yet, from the causticity of the in-

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jection,

jection, the discharge may cease; but nature will soon throw off its oppressor, and become more violent from these sudden cessations: from the moment this inflammation is brought on, the pain and uneasiness affect the testes and the adjacent parts, which continue until the discharge ensues. Mr. Bayford, in p. 66, says, “ The lymphatic glands, in the groin, also
 “ are liable to swell, upon the sudden
 “ stopping of a Gonorrhœa; but such tumours seldom fail to subside as soon as a
 “ plentiful discharge from the urethra is
 “ brought on again.” One might infer from this, that Mr. Bayford has some curious medicine, that will bring on a discharge at pleasure, and attract the absorbed virus from the groin to the penis. I think it is a pity his friend was not possessed of it, for the sake of the poor devil he had treated with a couple of buboes from modern practice!

This

This author gives his opinion that virulent Gonorrhœas may infect the habit with the lues venerea. Speaking of a friend of his, “ The discharge from the urethra continued about six weeks ; but, during the whole time, it was attended with so little inconvenience or uneasiness, that he did not apply a single remedy, either external or internal : the running abated by degrees and totally left him. The consequence, however, was, his being attacked, about four months after, with venereal sores upon the tonsils.” This might have been a virulent Gonorrhœa, from his friend’s account ; but I think that is no proof that he might not have been infected, unknowingly, in the interim, with the lues venerea : but more probably it might have been a small chancre behind the glans penis, which virus from the chancre being absorbed, healed of its own accord ; for we frequently find a bubo cure chancres without any application ; as
it

it does not appear that the author ever saw it, and every practical man knows how frequently a chancrous discharge, from behind the glans penis, deceives the patient, who supposes it to be a clap.

Mr. Bayford imagines that injections, frequently repeated, or of long continuance, are hurtful to the urethra. Certainly, he cannot say they are productive of more mischief than the continual discharge of a Gonorrhœa; and surely none would use them without occasion: for few injections, I believe, ever pass above half-way down the urethra, and that is far enough for the general feat of the disease; and therefore will not be liable to prevent the principal secretory mucous glands from discharging their proper quantity. Besides, the urethra is capable of receiving much sharper injections than many are aware of; for Providence hath provided that canal to be the continual conveyor of urine, which is generally more sharp and stimulating than injections

injections in common use, if the strength, as some suppose, be according to what the eye will bear, as being a proper standard to make injections by. I should advise a collyrium of urine in a morning to the regulator, that he may have some idea of the irritable simile between the two. Whenever a patient is under the use of the bals. cop. a double degree of stimulating injection will not have same effect. The same author observes, that they, who wholly rely upon injections, sometimes find the stream of urine diminished, and a difficulty in voiding; which, I presume, is a partial stranguy. I must confess I have seen this kind of complaint by using the volatile æruginous injection too strong, which went off upon the omission of the injection; and how common is it with those that use frequently large doses of neutral salts? To this complaint our author supposes another evil is always joined, namely, that the semen is not expelled, but arrested in its course, though the fluid be secreted

secreted in a proper quantity. He adds,
 “ From repeated enquiries into this mat-
 “ ter, I have found that the semen has
 “ been always better discharged, and ex-
 “ pelled with more force, in proportion
 “ to the time the penis has continued
 “ erect, *ante coitum*, and *vice versa*, &c.
 “ from which I cannot help concluding,
 “ that the complaint, in those cases, has
 “ been owing to a want of lubricity in the
 “ urethra, from a paucity of mucus.”
 I fancy few will dispute this observation,
 that the semen will be ejected the better,
 the longer time the penis is erected before
 coition, whatsoever was the want of mucus
 in the passage of the urethra, at that
 time. I should scarcely attribute it to a
 prior free use of injections, when, in the
 first place, it rarely ever reaches the glands
 which produce the mucus; and, secondly,
 is never used in that degree of strength
 which might do much injury to the parts;
 mankind being too cautious of giving
 themselves

themselves unnecessary pain, which must be the case to produce such an effect.

Injectiōns I have ever found of very great service; I have used them very freely, and never have had or seen any of those supposed alarming evils which some writers would make us believe: and I am confident, that the gonorrhœal matter, let it be raised to what pitch of acrimony the observer pleases, will never produce a chancre upon any cut or sore, that will prove pocky, either upon his canine or human patients.

Before I conclude the subject of injections, I would observe, that the calomel injection of Falck's, made a little stronger, is a very excellent one, and I have used it with great success; and for that, as well as two other observations, we are obliged to that author, which are worth every practical man's observation.

F

Mr.

Mr. B. in p. 17, observes, that, now and then, a running proceeds from a married or unmarried man, which he says is nothing but a temporary discharge, occasioned by an over-exertion of the parts; and numbers of such have been cured under the denomination of venereal, which by no means deserved the name. Discharges of this kind happen to those who are at the point of being well from a venereal Gonorrhœa; but those discharges from repeated venery, in healthful subjects, are totally different in appearance, being nothing more than the pellucid secretion of the weakened prostate glands: an over-exertion, or a strain, being excellent masks for poor women to view their husbands in, and serve them to play upon their surgeon. But they, who see much practice, learn never to believe such kind of tales, which are too common to deserve any regard; for practitioners frequently meet with persons, afflicted with venereal complaints, who, notwithstanding, make vehement protestations

protestations of their innocence; though, when they find themselves disbelieved, they will calmly declare they had only such a trifling connection, that they thought it was impossible to be the cause of such a disease. These are tales we are daily told, and I am grown such a sceptic, that I doubt every thing they say which does not coincide with reason.

If a Gonorrhœa should be compounded with a pox, I cure them as two different diseases, as much distinct as the itch is from an erysipelas. With the use of the drops I throw into the habit such a quantity of mercury as to suppress both together,

GLEETS,

The complaint, called a gleet, is most commonly brought on by tedious cures of virulent Gonorrhœas, drastic purges, or any thing that weakens and debilitates the parts, so as to cause a continual discharge

from the penis. I have scarcely ever met with one under my mode of cure, but have had frequent applications from those who have been under the care of others of the profession. Some I have found which could not be cured but by the bougie; but there is scarcely one in ten that requires it; and nothing will so readily give that stability to the parts, or restore their natural tone, so much as the drops, with the injection, exhibited in the same manner as prescribed, with a local bathing of the parts with a flannel and cold water, and a free plain regimen; avoiding every thing that stimulates the glands of the penis in an undue secretion. Incurable Gleet, I believe, are more talked of than really existing; and those, which will not give way to this treatment, will to the bougie.

I have tried bals. cop. almost in every mode; I united it with a great many things, but never found any to rest so easy upon the stomach as with spir. lav. c. as I have recommended.

recommended. It hath its good qualities with some few inconveniences, which may very easily be avoided. I have found it, in some few people, when it has been taken in too large quantities, and the body costive, to bring over the whole surface a kind of spurious erysipelas, or red inflammatory spots, about the size of the finger's end, accompanied with great heat, thirst, and uneasiness; and, what is very remarkable, the pulse is very little disturbed. The inflammation is taken off very easily by cooling purges, and drinking freely of barley-water, or any weak liquor: when the bals. is joined with an opiate, for a few doses, it will very readily make this appearance.

I have known it once to be mistaken for a true scarlet fever, by an eminent physician, who confined a young gentlemen, under my cure for a Gonorrhœa, a whole week to his bed.

The

The drops pass off by urine, giving a little smell, rather agreeable, and generally keeping the body gently open; sometimes they purge very violently, which may best be relieved by an opiate, or by taking gum Arab. \mathfrak{z} iv. vel \mathfrak{z} vi. quotidie; but, in this case, it is better to omit the drops for a day or two, until the bowels have recovered their abraded mucus, resting entirely upon the injection.

Some few stomachs cannot bear the balsam, and to such persons I generally give
R. Elect. lenit. \mathfrak{z} i.

Tereb. Venet, \mathfrak{z} iii.

Pulv. rhei \mathfrak{z} ii. m. cap. quantitatem nucis moschatæ ter de die. After a week or ten days, provided the scalding be gone, I use the vitr. inject. twice a day, and this completes the cure, but neither so quickly or agreeably as with the drops.

The true balsam copaiba is of a fine light yellow colour, generally thin, when
it

it comes over here, but grows thick with keeping. It is the product of Brazil and some other parts of South-America: when genuine, it has an agreeable smell, without that terebinthinous pungency which it has when sophisticated; as we have it often mixed with a turpentine made from spir. tereb. & refin. & ol. oliv. which disfigures it not to the eye, but, when smelt at, or a little is thrown upon a hot coal, the adulteration is very perceptible. It has this superiority over all other medicines whatsoever, (directly contrary to the opinion of most, if not all, of the faculty,) that it will, in a few hours, take off the most inveterate scalding, abate the running, relieve the chordee, and make a cure, by a little perseverance with the injections, sooner than any medicine yet known. It requires no confinement, allows a free use of plain wholesome food, and a glass or two of wine will do no injury; the patient finds his health and strength not impaired, his trouble trifling, and his pain slight; which

which induces him to pay the surgeon two visits for one before, which they find to their mutual satisfaction ; that the quickest cure is the best as well as safest ; and, accordingly, they will join in exploding that most absurd notion, of *locking up matter*, which has been founded upon erroneous theory.

T H E E N D.